

A Forum on Sustainability, Well-Being, and Environmental Protection: What's an Agency to Do?

**December 2, 2005
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

EPA's Office of Research and Development is sponsoring this forum to explore the relevance of sustainability to an environmental protection mission and how it's carried out. EPA managers, staff, and others will hear four panel discussions among noted economists and other experts. The first will grapple with conceptual issues, e.g., whether sustainability is tantamount to intergenerational equity and what sustainability's relationship is to environmental protection. The remaining panels will discuss what the mainstreaming of sustainability might engender at the ground level: How might policy design and assessment be affected? What about how environmental quality and societal well-being at measured at the national level?

Agenda

- 8:30 – 8:45** Welcoming/Introductory Remarks
George Gray, EPA Assistant Administrator for Research and Development
- 8:45 – 10:30** **Panel 1: Basis**
Moderator: Herman Daly
Panelists: Geoffrey Heal, Bryan Norton, and Tony Janetos
Questions: Is intergenerational equity a reasonable definition?
How does a concern for sustainability comport with the claim that generations are generally better off than those they follow?
How does sustainability relate to environmental protection?
- 10:45 – 12:30** **Panel 2: Measurement**
Moderator: Kirk Hamilton
Panelists: Joy Hecht, Lisa Wainger, Mark Anielski, and Bhavik Bakshi
Questions: How do we know if we are progressing toward sustainability and/or when it is achieved?
What is the relationship between national income accounts and sustainability?
To what degree has environmental reporting reflected sustainability?
Do holistic measures to measure sustainability exist?
- 1:45 – 3:15** **Panel 3: Policy Options**
Moderator: Jay Benforado
Panelists: Rich Howarth, Bryan Norton, and Meghan Chapple-Brown
Questions: What does sustainability policy look like vis-à-vis environmental protection policy?
Are preferences mutable and, if so, can they be made more sustainable?
How does "sustainable business" relate to "sustainability policy?"
- 3:30 – 5:15** **Panel 4: Policy Assessment**
Moderator: Tom Tietenberg
Panelists: Mike Toman, John Gowdy, Rich Howarth, and Billy Pizer
Questions: Is sustainability reflected in benefit-cost analysis (BCA)?
How does intergenerational discounting relate to sustainability?
How do deliberative decision-making approaches relate to sustainability?

Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mark Anielski	Independent Consultant	
Bhavik Bakshi	Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	Ohio State University
Jay Benforado	Director, National Center for Environmental Innovation	USEPA
Meghan Chapple-Brown	Senior Advisor	SustainAbility
Herman Daly	Professor of Public Affairs	University of Maryland
John Gowdy	Professor of Economics	RPI
Kirk Hamilton	Lead Environmental Economist	World Bank
Geoffrey Heal	Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility	Columbia University
Joy Hecht	Independent Consultant	
Rich Howarth	Professor of Environmental Studies	Dartmouth College
Tony Janetos	Vice President	Heinz Center
Bryan Norton	Professor of Philosophy	Georgia Institute of Tech
Billy Pizer	Fellow	RFF
Tom Tietenberg	Professor of Economics	Colby College
Mike Toman	Adjunct Professor of International Relations	Johns Hopkins University, SAIS
Lisa Wainger	Research Scientist	University of Maryland